

HEMISPHERE MEDIA GROUP, INC.

Form 10-Q

May 07, 2014

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2014

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission file number: 001-35886

HEMISPHERE MEDIA GROUP, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

80-0885255
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

Hemisphere Media Group, Inc.

2000 Ponce de Leon Boulevard

Suite 500

Coral Gables, FL
(Address of principal executive offices)

33134
(Zip Code)

(305) 421-6364

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

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Class of Stock	Shares Outstanding as of May 5, 2014
Class A common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	12,046,519 shares
Class B common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share	33,000,000 shares

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HEMISPHERE MEDIA GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

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March 31, 2014

(Unaudited)

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Unless otherwise indicated or the context requires otherwise, in this disclosure, references to the Company, Hemisphere, registrant, we, us or our refers to Hemisphere Media Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation and, where applicable, its consolidated subsidiaries; Acquired Cable Business refers to assets of Media World, LLC and its affiliates primarily used in, or held for use in connection with, the operation or conduct of Media World LLC's Spanish-language television network business including: (i) Pasiones, (ii) Centroamerica TV and (iii) TV Dominicana; Azteca refers to Azteca Acquisition Corporation, a Delaware blank check corporation; Azteca Merger Sub refers to Hemisphere Merger Sub II, Inc., a Delaware corporation; Cinelatino refers to Cine Latino, Inc., a Delaware corporation; Cable Networks Acquisition refers to the acquisition of the Acquired Cable Business on April 1, 2014, for approximately \$101.9 million, subject to certain adjustments; Cine Merger Sub refers to Hemisphere Merger Sub III, Inc., a Delaware corporation; MVS refers to Grupo MVS, S.A. de C.V., a Mexican Sociedad Anonima de Capital Variable (variable capital corporation); Networks refers collectively to WAPA PR, WAPA2 Deportes, WAPA America and Cinelatino; Transaction refers to collectively to the mergers of WAPA and WAPA Merger Sub, Azteca and Azteca Merger Sub, and Cinelatino and Cine Merger Sub, resulting in Azteca, WAPA and Cinelatino becoming indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries of Hemisphere; WAPA refers to WAPA Holdings, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and, where applicable, its consolidated subsidiaries; WAPA America refers to WAPA America, Inc., a Delaware corporation; WAPA Merger Sub refers to Hemisphere Merger Sub I, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; WAPA PR refers to Televiscentro of Puerto Rico, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; WAPA2 Deportes refers to a sports television network in Puerto Rico operated by WAPA PR; WAPA.TV refers to a news and entertainment website in Puerto Rico operated by WAPA PR.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT FOR PURPOSES OF THE SAFE HARBOR PROVISIONS OF THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995

Statements in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, including the exhibits attached hereto, future filings by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, our press releases, and oral statements made by, or with the approval of, our authorized personnel, that relate to our future performance or future events, may contain certain statements about us and our consolidated subsidiaries that do not directly or exclusively relate to historical facts. The statements are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

These forward-looking statements are necessarily estimates reflecting the best judgment and current expectations, plans, assumptions and beliefs about future events (in each case subject to change) of our senior management and management of our subsidiaries (including target businesses) and involve a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors, some of which may be beyond our control that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements. Without limitation, any statements preceded or followed by or that include the words targets, plans, believes, expects, intends, will, likely, may, anticipates, estimates, projects, should, positioned, strategy, future, potential, plan, forecast, or words, phrases or terms of similar substance or the negative thereof, are forward-looking statements. These include, but are not limited to, statements relating to the synergies and the benefits that we expect to achieve in the Cable Networks Acquisition, including future financial and operating results, the Company's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts.

We claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 for all forward-looking statements.

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Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of performance. If one or more of these factors materialize, or if any underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results, performance, or achievements may vary materially from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. In addition to the risk factors described in Item 1A Risk Factors in this report as well as in our 2013 Annual Report on Form 10-K, those factors include:

- the reaction by advertisers, programming providers, strategic partners, the Federal Communications Commission (the FCC) or other government regulators to the consummation of the (i) Transaction and (ii) Cable Networks Acquisition;
- the potential for viewership of our Networks (including the networks comprising the Acquired Cable Business) programming to decline;
- the risk that we may fail to secure sufficient or additional advertising and/or subscription revenue;
- the benefits of the combination of WAPA and Cinelatino, including the prospects of the combined businesses;

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- our ability to successfully integrate the Acquired Cable Business and achieve the expected synergies from that integration at the expected costs;
- the ability to realize anticipated growth and growth strategies of the combined company since the completion of (i) the Transaction and (ii) Cable Networks Acquisition;
- the ability to realize the anticipated benefits of (i) the Transaction and (ii) Cable Networks Acquisition, in each case, which may be affected by, among other things, competition in the industry in which we operate;
- the risk that we may become responsible for certain liabilities of the Acquired Cable Business;
- the risk that integrating our business with that of the Acquired Cable Business may divert our management's attention;
- our ability to obtain additional financing in the future;
- our ability to successfully manage relationships with customers, distributors and other important relationships;
- the loss of key personnel and/or talent or expenditure of a greater amount of resources attracting, retaining and motivating key personnel than in the past;
- changes in technology;
- changes in pricing and availability of products and services;
- the deterioration of general economic conditions, either nationally or in the local markets in which we operate; and
- legislative or regulatory changes that may adversely affect our businesses.

The list of factors above is illustrative, but by no means exhaustive. All forward-looking statements should be evaluated with the understanding of their inherent uncertainty. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements concerning the matters addressed in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are qualified by these cautionary statements.

The forward-looking statements are based on current expectations about future events and are not guarantees of future performance, and are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, these expectations may not be achieved. We may change our intentions, beliefs or expectations at any time and without notice, based upon any change in our assumptions or otherwise. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Table of Contents**PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION****ITEM I. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****HEMISPHERE MEDIA GROUP, INC.****Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**

(amounts in thousands, except share and par value amounts)

	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 73,909	\$ 176,622
Cash held in escrow	101,891	
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$160 and \$137, respectively	13,982	15,589
Due from related parties, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$578 and \$514, respectively	1,851	2,142
Programming rights	5,366	5,748
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	4,291	4,078
Total current assets	201,290	204,179
Programming rights	7,365	7,000
Property and equipment, net	24,416	24,675
Deferred financing costs	3,124	3,251
Broadcast license	41,356	41,356
Goodwill	130,794	130,794
Other intangibles, net	32,973	34,610
Other assets	870	783
Total Assets	\$ 442,188	\$ 446,648
Liabilities and Stockholders Equity		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,662	\$ 1,566
Due to related parties	778	738
Accrued agency commissions	1,159	6,101
Accrued compensation and benefits	2,479	2,374
Other accrued expenses	3,856	4,928
Programming rights payable	4,475	4,585
Deferred taxes	8,135	8,135
Current portion of long-term debt	1,750	1,750
Total current liabilities	24,294	30,177
Programming rights payable	858	837
Long-term debt, net of current portion	170,358	170,731
Deferred taxes	2,040	2,040
Defined benefit pension obligation	2,087	2,075
Total Liabilities	199,637	205,860

Commitments and Contingencies

Stockholders Equity

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**INVESTOR
SUITABILITY**

The notes may be suitable for you if:

- You believe that the Basket Level Percentage will be greater than approximately 102.25%.

- You understand that the Participation Rate is less than 100%, which will negatively affect your return on the notes.

- You are willing to accept the risk that you may lose up to 100% of the principal amount of the notes at maturity.

- You do not seek current income over the term of

the notes.

- You do not seek an investment for which there will be an active secondary market.

- You are willing to assume the credit risk of the Bank for any payments under the notes.

The notes may not be suitable for you if:

- You believe that the **Basket Level Percentage** will be less than approximately 102.25%.

- You are unwilling to accept that the **Participation Rate** is less than 100%, which will negatively affect your return on the notes.

- You are unwilling to accept the risk that you may lose up to 100% of the principal amount of the notes at maturity.

- You seek full payment of the principal amount of the notes at maturity.

- You seek current income over the term of the notes.

- You are unable or unwilling to hold the notes to maturity.

- You seek an investment for which there will be an active secondary market.

- You are not willing to assume the credit risk of the Bank for all payments under the notes.

The investor suitability

considerations identified above are not exhaustive. Whether or not the notes are a suitable investment for you will depend on your individual circumstances and you should reach an investment decision only after you and your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisors have carefully considered the suitability of an investment in the notes in light of your particular circumstances. You should also review **Additional Risk Factors** below for risks related to the notes.

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ADDITIONAL RISK FACTORS

An investment in the notes involves significant risks. In addition to the following risks included in this pricing supplement, we urge you to read Risk Factors beginning on page S-1 of the accompanying underlying supplement, page S-1 of the accompanying prospectus supplement and page 1 of the accompanying prospectus.

You should understand the risks of investing in the notes and should reach an investment decision only after careful consideration, with your advisers, of the suitability of the notes in light of your particular financial circumstances and the information set forth in this pricing supplement and the accompanying underlying supplement, the prospectus supplement and the prospectus.

Your Investment in the Notes May Result in a Loss.

The notes do not guarantee any return of principal. The amount payable on the notes at maturity will depend on the performance of the Reference Stocks and the dividends declared on the Reference Stocks, and may be less, and possibly significantly less, than the principal amount. If the prices of the Reference Stocks decrease and the applicable Dividend Amounts are not sufficient to offset that decrease, the payment at maturity will be less than the principal amount.

In addition, because the Participation Rate is only 97.80%, the Basket Level Percentage must exceed approximately 102.25% in order for you to receive a Redemption Amount that exceeds the principal amount. You may lose all or a substantial portion of the amount that you invested to purchase the notes. You may incur a loss even if the Basket Level Percentage is positive (but less than approximately 102.25%). Please also see The Notes Will Not Reflect the Full Performance of the Reference Stocks, Which May Negatively Impact Your Return.

The Notes Will Not Reflect the Full Performance of the Reference Stocks, Which May Negatively Impact Your Return.

Because the calculation of the Redemption Amount includes a Participation Rate of less than 100%, the return, if any, on the notes will not reflect the full performance of the Reference Stocks. Therefore, the yield to maturity based on the methodology for calculating the Redemption Amount will be less than the yield that would be produced if the Reference Stocks were purchased and held for a similar period.

No Periodic Interest Will Be Paid on the Notes.

No periodic interest will be paid on the notes. However, because it is possible that the notes may be classified for U.S. federal income tax purposes as contingent payment debt instruments rather than prepaid cash-settled derivative contracts, you may be required to accrue interest income over the term of your notes. See Summary of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences in this pricing supplement.

Payment on the Notes Is Subject to Our Credit Risk, and Actual or Perceived Changes in Our Creditworthiness Are Expected to Affect the Value of the Notes.

The notes are our senior unsecured debt obligations and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. As further described in the accompanying prospectus and prospectus supplement, the notes will rank on par with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt obligations, except such obligations as may be preferred by operation of law. Any payment to be made on the notes depends on our ability to satisfy our obligations as they come due. As a result, the actual and perceived creditworthiness of us may affect the market value of the notes and, in the event we were to default on our obligations, you may not receive the amounts owed to you under the terms of the notes. If we default on our obligations under the notes, your investment would be at risk and you could lose some or all of your investment. See "Description of the Notes We May Offer - Events of Default" in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

The Bank's Initial Estimated Value of the Notes Will Be Lower than the Initial Issue Price (Price to Public) of the Notes.

The initial issue price of the notes will exceed the Bank's initial estimated value because costs associated with selling and structuring the notes, as well as hedging the notes, are included in the initial issue price of the notes. See "The Bank's Estimated Value of the Notes" in this pricing supplement.

The Bank's Initial Estimated Value of the Notes Does Not Represent Future Values of the Notes and May Differ from Others' Estimates.

The Bank's initial estimated value of the notes is only an estimate, which will be determined by reference to the Bank's internal pricing models when the terms of the notes are set. This estimated value will be based on market conditions and other relevant factors existing at that time, the Bank's internal funding rate on the Trade Date and the

Bank's assumptions about market parameters, which can include volatility, dividend rates, interest rates and other factors. Different pricing models and assumptions could provide valuations for the notes that are greater or less than the Bank's initial estimated value. In addition, market conditions and other relevant factors in the future may change, and any assumptions may prove to be incorrect. On future dates, the market value of the notes could change significantly based on, among other things, changes in market conditions, including the prices of the Reference Stocks, the Bank's creditworthiness, interest rate movements and other relevant factors, which may impact the price at which the agent or any other party would be willing to buy the notes from you in any secondary market transactions. The Bank's initial estimated value does not represent a minimum price at which the agent or any other party would be willing to buy the notes in any secondary market (if any exists) at any time. See "The Bank's Estimated Value of the Notes" in this pricing supplement.

The Bank's Initial Estimated Value of the Notes Will Not Be Determined by Reference to Credit Spreads for Our Conventional Fixed-Rate Debt.

The internal funding rate to be used in the determination of the Bank's initial estimated value of the notes generally represents a discount from the credit spreads for our conventional fixed-rate debt. The discount is based on, among other things, our view of the funding value of the notes as well as the higher issuance, operational and ongoing liability management costs of the notes in comparison to those costs for our conventional fixed-rate debt. If the Bank were to use the interest rate implied by our conventional fixed-rate debt, we would expect the economic terms of the notes to be more favorable to you. Consequently, our use of an internal funding rate for market-linked notes would have an adverse effect on the economic terms of the notes, the initial estimated value of the notes on the Trade Date, and any secondary market prices of the notes. See "The Bank's Estimated Value of the Notes" in this pricing supplement.

Any Increase in the Price of One or More Reference Stocks May Be Offset by Decreases in the Price of One or More Other Reference Stocks.

The price of one or more of the Reference Stocks may increase while the price of one or more of the other Reference Stocks decreases. Therefore, in determining the value of the Basket at any time, increases in the price of one Reference Stock may be moderated, or wholly offset, by decreases in the price of one or more other Reference Stocks. In addition, if the final pricing supplement sets forth one or more Lower Weight Reference Stocks, any increases in the value of any Lower Weight Reference Stock will have a smaller impact on the payment of the notes than if that Lower Weight Reference Stock had been assigned a Reference Stock Weighting that was equal to that of the other Reference Stocks. The positive performance of that Lower Weight Reference Stock will offset to a lesser extent any decrease in value of any Reference Stock with a higher weighting.

The Final Price of Each Reference Stock Is Based on Its Closing Price on the Final Valuation Date and May Be Less Than the Closing Price of That Reference Stock on Trading Days Other Than the Final Valuation Date.

The Final Price of each Reference Stock will be calculated based on the Closing Price of that Reference Stock on the Final Valuation Date. The Reference Stock prices on Trading Days other than the Final Valuation Date will not be used to determine the Redemption Amount. Therefore, no matter how high the prices of the relevant Reference Stocks may be during the term of the notes, only the Closing Prices of the Reference Stocks on the Final Valuation Date will be used to calculate the applicable Final Prices and the Redemption Amount payable to you at maturity.

The Reference Stocks Are Concentrated in One Sector and Correlation Among the Reference Stocks May Affect the Value of Your Notes.

All of the Reference Stocks are issued by companies in the technology sector and, as a result, an investment in the notes will increase your exposure to fluctuations in that industry. The Reference Stocks may not represent a diversified portfolio of securities. To the extent that the Reference Stocks move in the same direction (i.e., are highly correlated), you will lose some or all of the benefits that would ordinarily apply to a diversified portfolio of securities.

Companies in the Technology Industry Are Subject to a Variety of Risks.

The Reference Stocks are issued by companies that operate in the technology sector, and all face a variety of risks. The prices of stocks of technology companies and companies that rely heavily on technology are particularly vulnerable to rapid changes in technology product cycles, potential product obsolescence, government regulation and competition (both in the U.S. and internationally), including competition from non-U.S. competitors with lower production costs. Stocks of technology companies, especially those of smaller, less-seasoned companies, tend to be more volatile than the overall market for equity securities. Technology companies are typically heavily dependent on patent and intellectual property rights, the loss or impairment of which may adversely affect profitability.

Additionally, companies in the technology sector may face dramatic and often unpredictable changes in growth rates and competition for the services of qualified personnel. Any of these factors can reduce the prices of the Reference Stocks and your return on the notes.

Certain Business, Trading and Hedging Activities of Us, CIBCWM, Raymond James or Our Respective Affiliates May Create Conflicts with Your Interests and Could Potentially Adversely Affect the Value of the Notes.

We, CIBCWM, Raymond James, and our respective affiliates may engage in trading and other business activities related to a Reference Stock that are not for your account or on your behalf. We, CIBCWM, Raymond James, and our respective affiliates also may issue or underwrite other financial instruments with returns based upon a Reference Stock. These activities may present a conflict of interest between your interest in the notes and the interests that we, CIBCWM, Raymond James, and our respective affiliates may have in our or their proprietary accounts, in facilitating transactions, including block trades, for our or their other customers, and in accounts under our or their management. These trading and other business activities, if they influence the price of any Reference Stock or secondary trading in your notes, could be adverse to your interests as a beneficial owner of the notes.

Moreover, we, CIBCWM, Raymond James, and our respective affiliates play a variety of roles in connection with the issuance of the notes, including hedging our obligations under the notes and making the assumptions and inputs used to determine the pricing of the notes and the initial estimated value of the notes when the terms of the notes are set. We expect to hedge our obligations under the notes through one of our affiliates and/or another unaffiliated counterparty. Any of these hedging activities may adversely affect the price of a Reference Stock and therefore the market value of the notes and the amount you will receive, if any, on the notes. In connection with such activities, the economic interests of us, CIBCWM, Raymond James, and our respective affiliates may be adverse to your interests as an investor in the notes. Any of these activities may adversely affect the value of the notes. In addition, because hedging our obligations entails risk and may be influenced by market forces beyond our control, this hedging activity may result in a profit that is more or less than expected, or it may result in a loss. We or one or more of our affiliates will retain any profits realized in hedging our obligations under the notes even if investors do not receive a favorable investment return under the terms of the notes or in any secondary market transaction. Any profit in connection with such hedging activities will be in addition to any other compensation that we and our affiliates receive for the sale of the notes, which creates an additional incentive to sell the notes to you. We, CIBCWM, Raymond James, and our respective affiliates will have no obligation to take, refrain from taking or cease taking any action with respect to these transactions based on the potential effect on an investor in the notes.

There Are Potential Conflicts of Interest Between You and the Calculation Agent.

The calculation agent will determine, among other things, the amount of your payment at maturity on the notes. The calculation agent will exercise its judgment when performing its functions. For example, the calculation agent will determine whether a Market Disruption Event affecting a Reference Stock has occurred, and make a good faith estimate in its sole discretion of the Closing Price for an affected Reference Stock if the Final Valuation Date is postponed to the last possible day, and make certain anti-dilution adjustments with respect to a Reference Stock if certain corporate events occur. See Certain Terms of the Notes Valuation Dates and Anti-Dilution Adjustments in the underlying supplement. This determination may, in turn, depend on the calculation agent's judgment as to whether the event has materially interfered with our ability or the ability of one of our affiliates to unwind our hedge positions. The calculation agent will be required to carry out its duties in good faith and use its reasonable judgment. However, because we will be the calculation agent, potential conflicts of interest could arise. Neither we nor any of our affiliates will have any obligation to consider your interests as a holder of the notes in taking any action that might affect the value of your notes.

The Notes Are Subject to Risks Associated with Reference Stocks that Have a Limited Trading History.

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The American Depositary Shares of Alibaba Group Holding Limited began trading on September 19, 2014, the American Depositary Shares of GDS Holdings Limited began trading on November 2, 2016, the common stock of Lumentum Holdings Inc. began trading on July 23, 2015, and the ordinary shares of Spotify Technology S.A. began trading on April 3, 2018. Accordingly, there is very limited trading history available for these Reference Stocks upon which you can evaluate their prior performance.

The Notes May Be Subject to Non-U.S. Securities Markets Risk.

An investment in securities linked to the value of non-U.S. companies, such as Aptiv PLC, which is an Irish issuer, Alibaba Group Holding Limited and GDS Holdings Limited, which are Chinese issuers, and Spotify Technology S.A., which is a Luxembourg issuer, involves risks associated with the home country of such non-U.S. companies. The prices of such non-U.S. companies' common equity securities may be affected by political, economic, financial

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and social factors in the home country of such non-U.S. companies, including changes in such country's government, economic and fiscal policies, currency exchange laws or other laws or restrictions, which could adversely affect the value of the notes.

In addition, an investment in the notes will involve risks not generally associated with investments which have no emerging market component. In particular, many emerging nations are undergoing rapid change, involving the restructuring of economic, political, financial and legal systems. Regulatory and tax environments may be subject to change without review or appeal. Many emerging markets suffer from underdevelopment of capital markets and tax regulation. The risk of expropriation and nationalization remains a threat. Guarding against such risks is made more difficult by low levels of corporate disclosure and unreliability of economic and financial data.

The Inclusion of the Reference Stocks in the Basket Does Not Guarantee a Positive Return on the Notes.

The inclusion of the Reference Stocks in the Basket does not guarantee a positive return on the notes. There can be no assurance that any Reference Stock, or the Basket in its entirety, will increase in value. The performance of the Reference Stocks may be less than the performance of the equities markets generally, less than the performance of other technology companies that are not included in the Basket, less than the performance of other sectors of the equity markets, or less than the performance of other securities in which you may choose to invest. The Reference Stocks were selected by the Equity Research Department at Raymond James, but any views expressed by such research department are separate and apart from the offering of these notes and do not constitute investment advice. There is no assurance that any Reference Stock Issuer will be successful or that the price of any Reference Stock will increase. Although dividends have been paid on the Reference Stocks in the past, there can be no assurance that they will be paid in the future, or that any such dividends will be paid at the same rate as they have been in the past. Our offering of the notes does not constitute our recommendation or the recommendation of Raymond James or any of our respective affiliates to invest in the notes or in the Reference Stocks.

Industry Consolidation and Other Corporate Events May Alter the Composition of the Basket.

If a Reference Stock Issuer is acquired in a stock-for-stock transaction, the stock of the acquiring company will assume that Reference Stock's place in the Basket, including if the stock of the acquiring company is already in the Basket. Consequently, any consolidation among issuers of the Reference Stocks will result in an increased weighting in the Basket for the surviving company. The effects on the Basket and the Initial Prices of the Reference Stocks of consolidation transactions and other reorganization events with respect to the Reference Stocks are described in Certain Terms of the Notes Anti-Dilution Adjustments in the underlying supplement.

There Will Be Limited Anti-Dilution Protection.

For certain events affecting shares of a Reference Stock, such as stock splits or stock dividends, the calculation agent may make adjustments which may adversely affect any payments on the notes. However, the calculation agent is not required to make an adjustment for every corporate action which affects the price of a Reference Stock. If an event occurs that does not require the calculation agent to adjust the price of a Reference Stock, the market value of the notes and the amount due on the notes may be materially and adversely affected.

The Notes Will Not Be Listed on Any Securities Exchange or Any Inter-Dealer Quotation System, and There May Be No Secondary Market for the Notes.

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The notes are most suitable for purchasing and holding to maturity. The notes will be new securities for which there is no trading market. The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange or any inter-dealer quotation system. We cannot assure you as to whether there will be a trading or secondary market for the notes or, if there were to be such a trading or secondary market, that it would be liquid.

Under ordinary market conditions, CIBCWM or any of our other affiliates may (but are not obligated to) make a secondary market for the notes. However, they may cease doing so at any time. Because we do not expect other broker-dealers to participate in the secondary market for the notes, the price at which you may be able to trade your notes is likely to depend on the price, if any, at which CIBCWM or any of our other affiliates are willing to transact. If none of CIBCWM or any of our other affiliates makes a market for the notes, there will not be a secondary market for the notes. Accordingly, we cannot assure you as to the development or liquidity of any secondary market for the notes. If a secondary market in the notes is not developed or maintained, you may not be able to sell your notes easily or at prices that will provide you with a yield comparable to that of similar securities that have a liquid secondary market.

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Significant Aspects of the Tax Treatment of The Notes Are Uncertain.

Significant aspects of the tax treatment of the notes are uncertain. You should consult your tax advisor about your own tax situation. See Summary of U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences and Certain Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations in this pricing supplement, Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences in the underlying supplement, and Material Income Tax Consequences Canadian Taxation in the prospectus.

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE REFERENCE STOCKS

General

Included in the pages that follow are brief descriptions of each of the Reference Stocks. We have derived the following information from publicly available documents. We have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the following information.

Because each Reference Stock is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act), each Reference Stock Issuer is required to file periodically certain financial and other information specified by the SEC. Information provided to or filed with the SEC by the Reference Stock Issuers can be located at the Public Reference Section of the SEC, 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549 or through the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov> by reference to the applicable CIK number set forth below.

This document relates only to the notes and does not relate to the securities of any Reference Stock Issuer. Neither we nor any of our affiliates have participated or will participate in the preparation of any Reference Stock Issuer's publicly available documents. Neither we nor any of our affiliates have made any due diligence inquiry with respect to any Reference Stock Issuer in connection with the offering of the notes. None of us or any of our affiliates makes any representation that the publicly available documents or any other publicly available information regarding the Reference Stock Issuers are accurate or complete. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that all events occurring prior to the date of this document, including events that would affect the accuracy or completeness of these publicly available documents that would affect the trading price of the Reference Stocks, have been or will be publicly disclosed. Subsequent disclosure of any events or the disclosure of or failure to disclose material future events concerning the Reference Stock Issuers could affect the prices of the Reference Stocks and therefore could affect your return on the notes. Information from outside sources is not incorporated by reference in, and should not be considered part of, this document or the accompanying prospectus, the prospectus supplement or the underlying supplement. The selection of the Reference Stocks is not a recommendation to buy or sell shares of the Reference Stocks.

Selection of the Composition of the Basket

The composition of the Basket and the identity of the Reference Stocks were selected in April 2019 by the Equity Research Department at Raymond James, which regularly publishes research regarding the technology sector. However, any views expressed by such research department are separate and apart from the offering of these notes and do not constitute investment advice. There is no assurance that any Reference Stock Issuer will be successful or that the price of any Reference Stock will increase. The business, results of operations and prospects of such companies, and the growth of the technology industry as a whole, are subject to conditions outside the control of Raymond James and CIBC. Moreover, the composition of the Basket does not reflect any investment recommendations from us, Raymond James or any of our respective affiliates. Neither we, Raymond James nor any of our respective affiliates makes any representation as to the performance of the Basket or any Reference Stock therein or otherwise endorses those stocks.

License Agreement

We have entered into a license agreement with Raymond James, under which we obtained the right to use the stocks discussed herein in connection with our issuance of the notes. Under the license agreement, we agreed to pay Raymond James a fee of up to 0.67% of the principal amount of the notes.

The license agreement requires this section to state as follows:

Solely by participating in this offering, Raymond James makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, to the holders of the notes or any member of the public regarding the advisability of investing in securities generally or in the notes particularly or the ability of the Basket to track general or industry-specific stock market performance. Raymond James and its third party licensors have no obligation to take the needs of CIBC or the holders of the notes into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the Basket. CIBC is the calculation agent for the notes and will have discretion in making various determinations that affect the notes and Raymond James is not responsible for any such calculations or determinations. Raymond James has no obligation or liability in connection with the administration or trading of the notes.

Raymond James has licensed certain of its trademarks to us.

The mark Raymond James is a trademark of Raymond James & Associates, Inc. and/or its affiliates, and has been licensed for our use.

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THE REFERENCE STOCKS

Aptiv PLC

Aptiv PLC manufactures vehicle components. The company produces electronic safety for automobile and commercial vehicle manufacturers. The company supplies original equipment manufacturers throughout the world. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-35346, or its CIK Code: 0001521332. This Reference Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE) under the symbol APTV.

Arrow Electronics, Inc.

Arrow Electronics, Inc. distributes electronic components and computer products to industrial and commercial customers. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-04482, or its CIK Code: 0000007536. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol ARW.

Alibaba Group Holding Limited

Alibaba Group Holding Limited provides internet infrastructure, e-commerce, online financial, and internet content services through its subsidiaries. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-36614, or its CIK Code: 0001577552. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol BABA.

Ciena Corporation

Ciena Corporation develops and markets communications network platforms and software, and offers professional services. The company s broadband access, data and optical networking platforms, software tools, and global network services support worldwide telecom and cable/MSO services providers, and enterprise and government networks. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-36250, or its CIK Code: 0000936395. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol CIEN.

CommScope Holding Company, Inc.

CommScope Holding Company, Inc., through its subsidiaries, provides end-to-end solutions connecting technology and wireless and wired networks. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-36146, or its CIK Code: 0001517228. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market (the Nasdaq) under the symbol COMM.

Cisco Systems, Inc.

Cisco Systems, Inc. supplies data networking products for the Internet. The company's Internet Protocol-based networking solutions are installed at corporations, public institutions and telecommunication companies worldwide. The company's solutions transport data, voice, and video within buildings, across campuses, and around the world. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 000-18225, or its CIK Code: 0000858877. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq under the symbol CSCO.

Cubic Corporation

Cubic Corporation, through its defense group, provides instrumented air and ground combat training systems, battle command training, and simulation support for military forces. The company also produces avionics, data links, and communications products. Its transportation group provides intermodal ticketing systems for public transit projects worldwide. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-08931 or its CIK Code: 0000026076. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol CUB.

Fidelity National Information Services, Inc.

Fidelity National Information Services, Inc. is a payment services provider. The company provides credit and debit card processing, electronic banking services, check risk management, check cashing, and merchant card processing services to financial institutions and merchants. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-16427 or its CIK Code: 0001136893. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol FIS.

GDS Holdings Limited

GDS Holdings Limited operates as a developer and operator of high performance data centers in China. The company offers colocation and managed services, including direct private connection to major public cloud platforms. The company serves large Internet companies, financial institutions, telecommunications, and IT service providers. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-37925 or its CIK Code: 0001526125. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol GDS.

Alphabet Inc.

Alphabet Inc., through its subsidiaries, provides web-based search, advertisements, maps, software applications, mobile operating systems, consumer content, enterprise solutions, commerce, and hardware products. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-37580 or its CIK Code: 0001652044. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq under the symbol GOOG.

Jabil Inc.

Jabil Inc. is an electronic manufacturing services provider for international electronics companies in the communications, personal computer, peripheral, consumer, and automotive markets. The company offers circuit design, board design from schematic, prototype assembly, volume board assembly, system assembly, repair, and warranty services. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-14063 or its CIK Code: 0000898293. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol JBL.

Juniper Networks, Inc.

Juniper Networks, Inc. provides internet infrastructure solutions for internet service providers and other telecommunications service providers. The company offers network infrastructure solutions that includes IP routing, ethernet switching, security and application acceleration solutions. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-34501 or its CIK Code: 0001043604. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol JNPR.

Lumentum Holdings Inc.

Lumentum Holdings Inc., through its subsidiaries, supplies optical and photonic products. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001- 36861 or its CIK Code: 0001633978. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq under the symbol LITE.

Microsoft Corporation

Microsoft Corporation develops, manufactures, licenses, sells, and supports software products. It offers operating system software, server application software, business and consumer applications software, software development tools, and Internet and intranet software. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-37845, or its CIK Code: 0000789019. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq under the symbol MSFT.

Motorola Solutions, Inc.

Motorola Solutions, Inc. is a data communications and telecommunications equipment provider. The company develops data capture, wireless, infrastructure, bar code scanning, two-way radios, and wireless broadband networks. The company also produces public safety and government products, voice and data communications products and systems, and wireless LAN securities. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-07221, or its CIK Code: 0000068505. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol MSI.

Netflix, Inc.

Netflix, Inc. is an Internet subscription service for watching television shows and movies. Subscribers can instantly watch unlimited television shows and movies streamed over the Internet to their televisions, computers, and mobile devices and in the United States. Subscribers can also receive standard definition DVDs and Blu-ray Discs delivered to their homes. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-35727, or its CIK Code: 0001065280. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq under the symbol NFLX.

ServiceNow, Inc.

ServiceNow, Inc. provides enterprise information technology (IT) management software. The company designs, develops, and produces prepackaged computer software, cloud services, and IT service management platform. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-35580 or its CIK Code: 0001373715. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol NOW.

NVIDIA Corporation

NVIDIA Corporation designs, develops, and markets three dimensional (3D) graphics processors and related software. The company offers products that provides interactive 3D graphics to the mainstream personal computer market. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 000-23985, or its CIK Code: 0001045810. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq under the symbol NVDA.

QUALCOMM Incorporated

QUALCOMM Incorporated manufactures digital wireless communications equipment. It licenses its code division multiple access (CDMA) and orthogonal frequency division multiplexing access intellectual property to other companies and produces CDMA-based integrated circuits, as well as equipment and software used to track workers, assets, and software for wireless content enablement. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 000-19528 or its CIK Code: 0000804328. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq under the symbol QCOM.

RingCentral, Inc.

RingCentral, Inc. operates as a provider of software-as-a-service solutions for business communications. The company offers a multi-user and enterprise-grade communications solution that enables customers and their employees to communicate via voice, text, HD video and web conferencing, and fax on multiple devices, including smartphones, tablets, and computers. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-36089, or its CIK Code: 0001384905. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol RNG.

EchoStar Corporation

EchoStar Corporation operates satellite communication infrastructures. The company provides satellite broadband communication solutions to media and broadcast organizations, pay-TV operators, enterprise customers, and United States government and military service providers. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-33807, or its CIK Code: 0001415404. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq under the symbol SATS.

SYNNEX Corporation

SYNNEX Corporation provides information technology supply chain services. It offers services to original equipment manufacturers and software publishers, and product distribution, related logistics, and contract assembly services. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-31892, or its CIK Code: 0001177394. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol SNX.

Spotify Technology S.A.

Spotify Technology S.A. provides music streaming services. The company offers commercial free music and ad-supported services to subscribers. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-38438 or its CIK Code: 0001639920. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol SPOT.

AT&T Inc.

AT&T Inc. is a communications holding company. The company, through its subsidiaries and affiliates, provides local and long-distance phone service, wireless and data communications, Internet access and messaging, IP-based and satellite television, security services, telecommunications equipment, and directory advertising and publishing. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-08610 or its CIK Code: 0000732717. This Reference Stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol T.

T-Mobile US, Inc.

T-Mobile US, Inc. is one of four national wireless carriers in the United States. The company provides wireless communication services to postpaid, prepaid and wholesale customers. It also sells a wide selection of wireless devices and accessories. Information filed by the company with the SEC under the Exchange Act can be located by reference to its SEC file number: 001-33409 or its CIK Code: 0001283699. This Reference Stock is listed on the Nasdaq under the symbol TMUS.

Historical Performance of the Reference Stocks

The following graphs set forth daily Closing Prices of the Reference Stocks for the period from January 1, 2014 or the date the relevant Reference Stocks began trading, as applicable, to April 29, 2019. We obtained the Closing Prices below from Bloomberg Professional® Service (Bloomberg) without independent verification. The historical performance of a Reference Stock should not be taken as an indication of its future performance, and no assurances can be given as to the price of any Reference Stock at any time during the term of the notes, including the Final Valuation Date. We cannot give you assurance that the performance of the Reference Stocks will result in any positive return on your investment.

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THE BANK'S ESTIMATED VALUE OF THE NOTES

The Bank's initial estimated value of the notes set forth on the cover of this pricing supplement is equal to the sum of the values of the following hypothetical components: (1) a fixed-income debt component with the same maturity as the notes, valued using our internal funding rate for structured debt described below, and (2) the derivative or derivatives underlying the economic terms of the notes. The Bank's initial estimated value does not represent a minimum price at which CIBCWM or any other person would be willing to buy your notes in any secondary market (if any exists) at any time. The internal funding rate used in the determination of the Bank's initial estimated value generally represents a discount from the credit spreads for our conventional fixed-rate debt. The discount is based on, among other things, our view of the funding value of the notes as well as the higher issuance, operational and ongoing liability management costs of the notes in comparison to those costs for our conventional fixed-rate debt. For additional information, see "Additional Risk Factors: The Bank's Initial Estimated Value of the Notes Will Not Be Determined by Reference to Credit Spreads for Our Conventional Fixed-Rate Debt" in this pricing supplement. The value of the derivative or derivatives underlying the economic terms of the notes is derived from the Bank's or a third party hedge provider's internal pricing models. These models are dependent on inputs such as the traded market prices of comparable derivative instruments and on various other inputs, some of which are market-observable, and which can include volatility, dividend rates, interest rates and other factors, as well as assumptions about future market events and/or environments. Accordingly, the Bank's initial estimated value of the notes will be determined when the terms of the notes are set based on market conditions and other relevant factors and assumptions existing at that time. See "Additional Risk Factors: The Bank's Initial Estimated Value of the Notes Does Not Represent Future Values of the Notes and May Differ from Others' Estimates" in this pricing supplement.

The Bank's initial estimated value of the notes will be lower than the initial issue price of the notes because costs associated with selling, structuring and hedging the notes are included in the initial issue price of the notes. These costs include the selling commissions paid to the Bank and other affiliated or unaffiliated dealers, the projected profits that our hedge counterparties, which may include our affiliates, expect to realize for assuming risks inherent in hedging our obligations under the notes and the estimated cost of hedging our obligations under the notes. Because hedging our obligations entails risk and may be influenced by market forces beyond our control, this hedging may result in a profit that is more or less than expected, or it may result in a loss. We or one or more of our affiliates will retain any profits realized in hedging our obligations under the notes. See "Additional Risk Factors: The Bank's Initial Estimated Value of the Notes Will Be Lower than the Initial Issue Price (Price to Public) of the Notes" in this pricing supplement.

SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

Pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement, CIBCWM will purchase the notes from the Bank for distribution through Raymond James, which will act as agent in the distribution of the notes. The notes sold to investors will be offered at the issue price of \$1,000 per note. CIBCWM will receive commissions from us of 1.25% of the principal amount of the notes, or \$12.50 per \$1,000.00 principal amount. CIBCWM will use these commissions to pay selling concessions or fees to Raymond James of 1.25% of the principal amount of the notes, or \$12.50 per \$1,000.00 principal amount for its services in connection with the distribution of the notes. Raymond James will also receive licensing fees for its research related to the Reference Stocks, as described in Information Regarding the Reference Stocks License Agreement.

We expect to deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on a date that is more than two Business Days following the Pricing Date. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Exchange Act, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in two Business Days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade the notes on any date prior to two Business Days before delivery will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

The Bank owns, directly or indirectly, all of the outstanding equity securities of CIBCWM. In accordance with FINRA Rule 5121, CIBCWM may not make sales in this offering to any of its discretionary accounts without the prior written approval of the customer.

The Bank may use this pricing supplement in the initial sale of the notes. In addition, CIBCWM or another of the Bank's affiliates may use this pricing supplement in market-making transactions in any notes after their initial sale. Unless CIBCWM or we inform you otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this pricing supplement is being used by CIBCWM in a market-making transaction.

While CIBCWM may make markets in the notes, it is under no obligation to do so and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice. See the section titled Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest) in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

The price at which you purchase the notes includes costs that the Bank or its affiliates expect to incur and profits that the Bank or its affiliates expect to realize in connection with hedging activities related to the notes. These costs and profits will likely reduce the secondary market price, if any secondary market develops, for the notes. As a result, you may experience an immediate and substantial decline in the market value of your notes on the Original Issue Date.

The notes may not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to any retail investor in the European Economic Area (the EEA). Consequently no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (the PRIIPs Regulation) for offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA has been prepared and therefore offering or selling the notes or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation. For the purposes of this provision:

(a) the expression retail investor means a person who is one (or more) of the following:

(i) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, MiFID II);

(ii) a customer within the meaning of Directive 2002/92/EC, where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or

(iii) not a qualified investor as defined in Directive 2003/71/EC; and

(b) the expression an offer includes the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the notes.

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SUMMARY OF U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following discussion is a brief summary of the material U.S. federal income consequences relating to an investment in the notes. The following summary is not complete and is both qualified and supplemented by, or in some cases supplements, the discussion entitled "Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences" beginning on page S-20 of the underlying supplement, which you should carefully review prior to investing in the notes.

The U.S. federal income tax consequences of your investment in the notes are uncertain. No statutory, judicial or administrative authority directly discusses how the notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the opinion of our tax counsel, Mayer Brown LLP, it would generally be reasonable to treat the notes as prepaid cash-settled derivative contracts. Pursuant to the terms of the notes, you agree to treat the notes in this manner for all U.S. federal income tax purposes. If your notes are so treated, you should generally recognize capital gain or loss upon the sale, exchange, redemption or payment on maturity in an amount equal to the difference between the amount you receive at such time and the amount that you paid for your notes. Such gain or loss should generally be long-term capital gain or loss if you have held your notes for more than one year. The Issuer will report periodic payments designated as interest as ordinary income to U.S. Holders.

The Dividend Amount paid to holders of the notes will not be treated by us as a pass through of an actual dividend paid on the Reference Stocks. As a result, an individual holder of a note will not be entitled to treat the Dividend Amount as qualified dividend income eligible for the lower tax rates applicable to such income. Concomitantly, a corporate holder of a note will not be entitled to corporate dividends received deduction with respect to the Dividend Amount.

Alternative Treatments. As noted above, there is no judicial or administrative authority discussing how the notes should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Therefore, other treatments would also be reasonable and the Internal Revenue Service might assert that treatment other than that described above is more appropriate.

For example, the notes may be properly treated as a custodial arrangement under which CIBC is treated as holding the Basket on behalf of note holders. In this case, any dividends paid on the Basket would be immediately taxable to note holders, even though note holders would not receive a distribution at such time. Additionally, in this case, the Internal Revenue Service could also assert that a holder should be required to treat any amounts attributable to the Participation Rate as separate investment expenses to the extent the Participation Rate is less than 100%. No deduction of any such deemed expenses would be available to a holder who is an individual, trust or estate. Such amount could correspondingly increase the amount of gain and income or decrease the amount of loss recognized by a holder with respect to an investment in the notes, unless the holder elected to capitalize such costs.

Although unlikely, another possible alternative treatment is that a note could be treated as a single debt instrument subject to the special tax rules governing contingent payment debt instruments. If the notes are so treated, you would be required to accrue interest income over the term of a note based upon the yield at which we would issue a non-contingent fixed-rate debt instrument with other terms and conditions similar to your note. You would recognize gain or loss upon the sale, call or maturity of the note in an amount equal to the difference, if any, between the amount you receive at such time and your adjusted basis in the note. In general, your adjusted basis in the note would be equal to the amount you paid for the note, increased by the amount of interest you previously accrued with respect to the note. Any gain you recognize upon the sale, call or maturity of the note would be ordinary income and any loss recognized by you at such time would generally be ordinary loss to the extent of interest you included in income in the current or previous taxable years with respect to the note, and thereafter would be capital loss.

If a note is treated as a contingent payment debt instrument and you purchase a note in the secondary market at a price that is at a discount from, or in excess of, the adjusted issue price of the note, such excess or discount would not be subject to the generally applicable market discount or

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amortizable bond premium rules but rather would be subject to special rules set forth in treasury regulations governing contingent payment debt instruments. Accordingly, if you purchase a note in the secondary market, you should consult your tax advisor as to the possible application of such rules to you.

In addition, the Internal Revenue Service has released a notice that may affect the taxation of holders of prepaid forward contracts and similar instruments. According to the notice, the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Treasury are actively considering whether the holder of such instruments should be required to accrue ordinary income on a current basis, and they are seeking taxpayer comments on the subject. While it is not clear whether the notes would be viewed as similar to such instruments, it is possible that any future guidance could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the notes, possibly with retroactive effect.

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Because of the absence of authority regarding the appropriate tax characterization of the notes, it is possible that the Internal Revenue Service could seek to characterize the notes in a manner that results in tax consequences to you that are different from those described above. For example, the Internal Revenue Service could possibly assert that any gain or loss that a holder may recognize upon the sale or maturity of the notes should be treated as ordinary gain or loss. In addition, it is possible that the amount an individual holder receives upon sale or maturity that is attributable to the Dividend Amount will be taxable as a dividend, which may be treated, in whole or in part, as qualified dividend income, subject to the reduced tax rate applicable to net long-term capital gains. Holders should consult their tax advisors as to the tax consequences of such characterizations and any possible alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

We do not believe that the constructive ownership transaction rules of Section 1260 of the Code apply to this offering.

You are urged to consult your tax advisors concerning the significance, and the potential impact, of the above considerations.

For a more detailed discussion of certain alternative characterizations with respect to your notes and certain other considerations with respect to your investment in the notes, you should consider the discussion set forth in *Certain U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences* of the underlying supplement. We are not responsible for any adverse consequences that you may experience as a result of any alternative characterization of the notes for U.S. federal income tax or other tax purposes.

Regarding the discussion in the underlying supplement with respect to a dividend equivalent payment made with respect to a U.S. stock or equity-linked debt instrument under the section entitled *Tax Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders*, even if the notes should be treated as equity-linked instruments, we believe that the notes should not be considered to have a delta of 1.0. If the Internal Revenue Service agrees with this interpretation, the notes should be exempt from the withholding tax rules specified for dividend equivalents.

You should consult your tax advisor as to the tax consequences of such characterization and any possible alternative characterizations of the notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes. You should also consult your tax advisor concerning the U.S. federal income tax and other tax consequences of your investment in the notes in your particular circumstances, including the application of state, local or other tax laws and the possible effects of changes in federal or other tax laws.

CERTAIN CANADIAN FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

In the opinion of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, our Canadian tax counsel, the following summary describes the principal Canadian federal income tax considerations under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and the regulations thereto (the Canadian Tax Act) generally applicable at the date hereof to a purchaser who acquires beneficial ownership of a note pursuant to this pricing supplement and who for the purposes of the Canadian Tax Act and at all relevant times: (a) is neither resident nor deemed to be resident in Canada; (b) deals at arm's length with the Issuer and any transferee resident (or deemed to be resident) in Canada to whom the purchaser disposes of the note ; (c) does not use or hold and is not deemed to use or hold the note in, or in the course of, carrying on a business in Canada; (d) is entitled to receive all payments (including any interest and principal) made on the note ; and (e) is not a, and deals at arm's length with any, specified shareholder of the Issuer for purposes of the thin capitalization rules in the Canadian Tax Act (a Non-Resident Holder). A specified shareholder for these purposes generally includes a person who (either alone or together with persons with whom that person is not dealing at arm's length for the purposes of the Canadian Tax Act) owns or has the right to acquire or control or is otherwise deemed to own 25% or more of the Issuer's shares determined on a votes or fair market value basis. Special rules which apply to non-resident insurers carrying on business in Canada and elsewhere are not discussed in this summary.

This summary assumes that none of the Reference Stocks, or any other stock substituted for a Reference Stock as described under *Certain Terms of the Notes Anti-Dilution Adjustments Reorganization Events* in the underlying supplement, will at any relevant time be stock of a company resident in Canada for purposes of the Canadian Tax Act.

This summary is supplemental to and should be read together with the description of material Canadian federal income tax considerations relevant to a Non-Resident Holder owning notes under *Material Income Tax Consequences Canadian Taxation* in the accompanying prospectus and a Non-Resident Holder should carefully read that description as well.

This summary is of a general nature only and is not intended to be, nor should it be construed to be, legal or tax advice to any particular Non-Resident Holder. Non-Resident Holders are advised to consult with their own tax advisors with respect to their particular circumstances.

Based on Canadian tax counsel's understanding of the Canada Revenue Agency's administrative policies, and having regard to the terms of the notes, interest payable on the notes should not be considered to be participating debt interest as defined in the Canadian Tax Act and accordingly, a Non-Resident Holder should not be subject to Canadian non-resident withholding tax in respect of amounts paid or credited or deemed to have been paid or credited by the Issuer on a note as, on account of or in lieu of payment of, or in satisfaction of, interest.

Non-Resident Holders should consult their own advisors regarding the consequences to them of a disposition of notes to a person with whom they are not dealing at arm's length for purposes of the Canadian Tax Act.